

HONORING RICHARD WINKEL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of Richard "Dick" Winkel who retired after 29 years of service from the elected position of Kankakee County Auditor on December 31, 1997. Dick Winkel has continuously served the most terms, eight in all, of any county auditor in the history of the state of Illinois.

When Dick Winkel first took office in 1968, computers were just beginning to be utilized. In 1968, the computer at the auditor's office was the size of a large refrigerator and had to be housed in the basement of the County Building. The old system required a \$23,000 climate control system to keep it running. Today, thanks to Dick Winkel, the new system includes built-in safeguards to prevent the county from ever experiencing a computer melt-down that would wipe out months of accounting work.

Dick and his wife Betty are the proud parents of four children and the proud grandparents of 17 children. Dick has always followed his father's ideals about the important things in life; family, God, and the political climate in which you live. According to Dick, "You have to be an active participant with all three. If you don't participate in politics, you deserve what you get."

Dick Winkel's commitment and impact on his community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Dick Winkel is both timely and appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and enlightened America's communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE NCAA 1997
WATER POLO CHAMPIONS
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1997 National Collegiate Athletic Association water polo champions from Pepperdine University, in Malibu, California.

The NCAA water polo finals don't draw the crowds or television viewers some higher-profile college sports do. But athleticism, commitment and sacrifice aren't measured in the stands, they are measured in the competition. Water polo players are among the most dedicated and physically fit of all athletes.

Michael Jordan once said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships." I would like to acknowledge all of the athletes on Pepperdine's 1997 water polo team. Individually, they have dedicated their time and energy to their sport, making

many sacrifices along the way. They also realize the importance of working as a team toward a common goal, a lesson that will serve them well throughout their lives.

To be recognized as the premiere water polo team in our country is no small feat. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many strengths of these exceptional athletes, and wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors, in and out of the water. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the 1997 National Collegiate Athletic Association water polo champions from Pepperdine University.

THE MEDIA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, January 14, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

REFLECTIONS ON THE MEDIA

In recent decades, we've seen a dramatic drop in the number of Americans who trust their government to do the right thing most of the time. Many factors contribute to this, but one often mentioned is the way in which many journalists approach their craft today. There is increasing concern that journalists too often report just the failures of government and not the successes, just the scandals and not the substance of governing. I am impressed with the number of constituents who ask whether they can really believe what they see and read in the media.

The press, of course, plays an essential role in the relationship between citizens and elected officials. We rely on the press to inform citizens about government actions, to help public officials gauge public opinion, and to act as a watchdog. By deciding whether and how extensively events or issues are covered, the press influences the policy agenda. I worry sometimes that in this age of instantaneous communication, journalists are less likely to reflect carefully on the quality and impact of their coverage.

I've always felt that journalists should ideally remain on the sideline as observers and analysts. But today many of our journalists, especially those based in Washington, want to be policy players rather than reporters of events. They want to give advice to the public and to prominent politicians, to score political points rather than illuminate events. Too often they reject the traditional values of the journalist—detachment, skepticism, caution—that have always been vital to the practice of good journalism.

These journalists, like anyone who seeks to influence opinion in this country, engage in intense competition to get on television. Unfortunately, some political talk shows are not much more than shouting matches. They do not analyze, explain, or clarify the issues facing the country. One panelist was quoted as saying, "The less you know about something, the better off you are." That may be true for entertaining TV but it is not true for journalism. What makes good television and what makes thoughtful analysis are two different things.

Journalists know that there's big money associated with appearances on television, if not for the appearance fee (which is usually quite modest), then for the opportunity those appearances provide to garner lucrative speaking engagements before groups of

all kinds. My view is that their considerable talents may be dissipated by this quest for money and that the country is the poorer for it.

It's easy to exaggerate the importance of these kinds of journalists. Even the most popular talk shows do not get more than 2 or 3 percent of TV households. Only a few people follow them closely. But the desire of some journalists to influence policy can have a troubling effect: the tendency to cozy up to government officials or to tilt a story. I think sometimes journalists pull punches rather than offend powerful public officials. On the other hand, some reporters go to the other extreme, viewing government officials and their actions not with healthy skepticism, but with suspicion or cynicism. The best reporters view them as neither inherently dishonest nor inherently virtuous.

Also worrisome is that in covering policy debates journalists too often focus on the horse race—who is winning—rather than on how we should deal in this country with some very tough problems. Every public official gets distressed by the electronic media reducing issues to sound bites of a few seconds. All that does is encourage shrillness, generalities and mutual attack rather than informed and meaningful debate. In addition, the journalist understands that the reporting of scandal will get him on the front page much more quickly than the reporting of substance. If journalism does not begin to pay more attention to disinterested analysis, it will continue to lose credibility with Americans. Certainly the ideal is the independent non-partisan, non-ideological journalist, a journalist who does everything he can to filter out of his reporting his personal political views.

There are a lot of things I don't worry much about in journalism. Some complain that the press has a liberal bias; others see a conservative bias. Fortunately, we have multiple sources of information and the competition among these sources contributes to a self-correcting process. If a story is reported badly by one source, other sources quickly set the record straight. For the citizen willing to search for it, substantive information about public policy is widely and cheaply available from a large variety of sources.

Despite its flaws, I favor a powerful press because it can balance the power of government. I may complain about the press on occasion, but I would not like the country without it. The job of the press is formidable. We should not resent but applaud the efforts reporters make to investigate and to keep the record straight. Jefferson said, "No government ought to be without censors. And where the press is free none ever will. The only security of all is a free press. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary to keep the waters pure." As Jefferson pointed out, it is difficult to draw a clear line of separation between the abuse and the wholesome use of the press. But because the free press does have a high mission in a democratic society it has to be all the more responsible to carry it out.

The press has an obligation to ferret out scandal. It has the obligation to cover contests for public affairs. It should also report complex and serious policy issues objectively, explaining the complexity of the issues involved and the positions of various parties. Biased analysis may have its place on the editorial pages but the news columns should report the facts.

What should government do about these criticisms? Nothing. Justice Brennan said that press freedom should be, "uninhibited, robust, and wide open." He was right on the mark. Government officials should not try to

shape the content of media coverage of politics. The media can be the check on misconduct and tyranny by government, expose public officials' errors and abuses, inform public policy, and improve the quality of democracy. The problems with the media should be dealt with by the media and the people rather than the government.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND
SOCIETY OF POLES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cleveland Society of Poles on its 75th Anniversary. This non-profit organization is dedicated to financially assisting groups and individuals training in the arts. Members of the Society consist of business people and professionals in the Cleveland area.

The Society is striving to make 1998, its 75th Anniversary year, the best ever. Numerous charitable, civic, and educational groups as well as individuals will benefit from the commitment the Cleveland Society of Poles and its members have made to promoting the arts. In turn, the Cleveland community benefits from the organization's continued support of the arts by seeing its cultural, educational, and economic vitality grow and flourish.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Cleveland Society of Poles.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF
SGT. EDWARD D. CARDOZA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Sgt. Edward D. Cardoza upon his retirement from the Milpitas Police Department which is located in Milpitas, CA, in California's 13th Congressional District.

Sgt. Cardoza began his career in law enforcement in 1968 after receiving an honorable discharge from the United States Air Force and attending college. On October 27, 1969, he was transferred to the Milpitas Police Department. He was promoted to corporal in 1974 and then to the rank of sergeant in 1982.

During his 29 years with the Department, Sgt. Cardoza served in many different areas. He showed interest early in his career in the K-9 program. He was a K-9 officer for several years before becoming the coordinator of the K-9 Department where he has served as coordinator for the last ten years. He was a patrol sergeant for several years. In this capacity he was responsible for supervising other police personnel in their response to the needs of our citizens. He also worked in the detective bureau and the youth service bureau and was instrumental in starting the police reserves program.

For the past 3 years, Sgt. Cardoza has been serving as a traffic sergeant. In this capacity he has worked closely with city traffic

engineers to help reduce the traffic accident rate for the city of Milpitas. Recently he was instrumental in the conception, design, and implementation of the Department's DUI enforcement trailer which will be used to assist in the reduction of the incidence of drunk driving.

Sgt. Cardoza has also been an active member of the community—through his service on the youth service bureau of the Department, he became involved in many of our community's youth programs. He coached PAL baseball, YBA basketball, and little league. He has also served on the board of directors for Santa Clara PAL, Milpitas PAL, and treasurer for BMX.

During his years of service, Sgt. Cardoza received over 70 letters of appreciation and commendation from the citizens of Milpitas and from numerous branches of government.

Mr. Speaker, on January 30, 1998, Sgt. Cardoza will be honored by family, friends, colleagues, and members of the community on the occasion of his retirement from the Milpitas Police Department. I applaud him for his 29 years of distinguished public service to our community. His dedication and commitment will be sorely missed and I wish him luck in all of his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Black History Month. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the courageous leadership and civic duty that has shaped the communities of New York throughout the years. Now, as we approach the new century, New Yorkers of all ethnic backgrounds will face a new set of economic, social and political challenges. If we stop and recognize the perseverance of African-Americans in times of change, their record of commitment to the pursuit of prosperity, integrity and opportunity for their families and friends and community at-large speaks for itself.

The tireless work of community and religious leaders in guiding African-American communities have done much to improve the quality of life in our city. I am proud to honor this important occasion where African-Americans join hands to acknowledge their accomplishments and contributions to our society and the world.

The level of civic participation in today's culture is depressingly low among average American citizens. I am always inspired by the community spirit and leadership I witness from African-Americans in New York. Our society would be a better place if more Americans emulated the civic duty and moral strength of our African-American counterparts. I hope that Black History Month is recognized and honored by citizens of all backgrounds. I honor the work, vision and courage of my African-American friends and colleagues in Congress and throughout New York. May our city continue to be honored with your leadership.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD T. ROBINSON, SR.—FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 1997, Howard Theodore Robinson, Sr., the first Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, lost his life in a car accident. His death was a great tragedy for the African-American community. He touched so many lives and was a key participant in the socioeconomic movement of minorities.

I vividly remember the day I was introduced to Howard during a congressional trip to the Far East. At that time, Howard was labor attaché for the American embassy in Tokyo. Congressman Gus Hawkins and I met with him. We were so impressed with Howard that we recommended to our colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus that he be hired as the organization's first executive director. Our instincts proved to be correct. He was a great administrator. The CBC is the powerful organization that is today in part because of Howard's contributions.

Howard worked tirelessly to advance the causes of minorities, particularly African-Americans, and made great sacrifices on their behalf. When he accepted the position of CBC Executive Director, he left a prestigious position at the State Department. But, he was on a greater mission. In his letter of acceptance he stated that he was taking the job "with the full recognition that the Caucus may not, at this time, be in a position to match my current salary. But, because I believe that the purposes and objectives outlined by the Caucus are basic to the future of all Americans, I am willing to abandon my position as a senior Foreign Service office, in order to dedicate the next years of my life to the objectives that you in the Caucus have set out to achieve."

In addition to his foreign service career, which included U.S. Consulate to the French West Indies and Advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Howard Robinson had a distinguished career in radio. In 1991, he became the host of "The Creative Entrepreneur", a talk show about small businesses. Later on, he hosted a second show called "Dynamics of Public Policy", a show about policy in southern New Jersey. The title of the second show was changed to "In The Public Interests" when Howard left New Jersey and went solo. The shows were expansions of Howard's efforts to help minority communities. They both proved to be key informational sources in their respective communities and helped many to empower themselves economically and politically.

Howard's sacrifices and contributions will not be forgotten. His work touched people who will always remember how Howard helped them to envision and live up to their potential. The name "Howard T. Robinson, Sr." will be indelibly marked on their journey to economic independence.